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Jeff S. Jordan
Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: MUR 7049

Dear Mr. Jordan:

We write as counsel to Ms. Margaret Stock, a candidate for the United States Senate, in response to the complaint by Mr. Jed Whittaker dated March 28, 2016 and amended on April 19, 2016 (the "Complaint"). The Complaint fails to set forth any facts, which, if proven true would constitute a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act") or the regulations of the Federal Election Commission (the "FEC" or "Commission"). Accordingly, the Complaint should be immediately dismissed and the Commission should close the file.

The vast majority of the Complaint consists of meritless allegations concerning political decisions of the Alaska Democratic Party (the "ADP"), arguments about what candidates are participating in the ADP's primary process, and filing obligations with the Alaska Division of Elections. Significantly, none of these allegations even implicate the Act or Commission regulations, much less set forth a violation of federal campaign finance laws under the Commission's purview. The Complaint's only allegation under the Act is that Ms. Stock "has not filed any financial statements since the [February 16, 2016] initial registration [and that] this [is] a violation of the 15 day reporting requirement."¹ There is simply no basis to this claim, which seems to be based on a misunderstanding of the deadlines for filing a Statement of Candidacy and Statement of Organization for a principal campaign committee, and separately, the deadlines for a Senate campaign to file its quarterly reports.

Commission regulations state that within 15 days of becoming a candidate, an individual must designate a principal campaign committee by filing a Statement of Candidacy.² Thereafter, the committee must file a Statement of Organization with the FEC within 10 days of its designation.³ Principal campaign committees then file quarterly reports due on April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 31.⁴ In addition to quarterly reports, candidate committees must file pre- and post-

¹ See Complaint at 1.

² 11 C.F.R. § 101.1(a).

³ *Id.* § 102.1(a).

⁴ *Id.* § 104.5(a)(1).

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general election reports on October 27 and December 8, respectively.⁵ Candidate committees must also file pre-election reports 12 days before the primary election,⁶ which in Alaska is not until August 4, 2016 this cycle.⁷

Ms. Stock announced her candidacy for U.S. Senate on February 16, 2016.⁸ The next day, on February 17, 2016, Ms. Stock filed her Statement of Candidacy.⁹ On February 24, 2016, Ms. Stock's Committee filed its Statement of Organization.¹⁰ The Committee then filed its required quarterly report on April 15, 2016.¹¹ Ms. Stock and her principal campaign committee have complied with all of their filing obligations with the FEC.

The Commission "may find reason to believe only if a complaint sets forth sufficient specific facts, which, if proven true would constitute a violation of the [Act]."¹² Additionally, "unwarranted legal conclusions from asserted facts" and mere speculation will not be accepted as true.¹³ The Complaint completely fails to meet this standard and therefore, we respectfully request that the Commission immediately dismiss this matter, close the file, and take no further action.

Very truly yours,



Marc E. Elias
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Justin A. Dews

⁵ *Id.* § 104.5(a)(2)(i), (ii).

⁶ *Id.* § 104.5(a)(2)(i).

⁷ FEC, Alaska Primary Election Report Notice,

http://www.fec.gov/pages/report_notices/2016/state_notices/ak_prim.shtml (last visited June 6, 2016).

⁸ Devin Kelly, *Anchorage Attorney Margaret Stock Challenging Lisa Murkowski for Senate*, Alaska Dispatch News (Feb. 17, 2016), <http://www.adn.com/politics/article/alaska-attorney-margaret-stock-challenging-lisa-murkowski-us-senate/2016/02/17/>.

⁹ FEC Form 2, Margaret Stock Statement of Candidacy (Feb. 17, 2016),

<http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/949/201602220200074949/201602220200074949.pdf>.

¹⁰ FEC Form 1, Margaret for Alaska Statement of Organization (Feb. 24, 2016),

<http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/702/201602290200075702/201602290200075702.pdf>.

¹¹ FEC Form 3, Margaret for Alaska Report of Receipts and Disbursements (Apr. 15, 2016),

<http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/294/201604200200151294/201604200200151294.pdf>.

¹² FEC Matter Under Review 4960 (Clinton for U.S. Exploratory Committee), Statement of Reasons of Commissioners David M. Mason, Karl J. Sandstrom, Bradley A. Smith and Scott E. Thomas (Dec. 21, 2000).

¹³ *Id.*